



MICHAEL PHILLIP EDWARDS

Playwright Director Actor Screenwriter

A graduate of Toronto's Second City and York University's Fine Arts Conservator, Michael's first professional experience was directed by multiple Tony award-winning playwright Athol Fugard—a seven month tour of “My Children! My Africa!” at Montreal's Centaur Theatre. Michael cites Fugard's visceral passion as a writer director as a major tone setting factor in his shift from stagecraft to pen. “The experience was brutal. Fugard forced me to recognize my responsibility as an artist not to pretend but to actually ‘walk a life’.”

Two NAACP Best Actor nominations and one Dramalogue award later, Michael committed to the pen with his seminal work “runt” premiering at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival in Scotland, 2001. The play was awarded the Scotsman Fringe First Award the first week of its four week run and was immediately picked up by the BBC and produced as a radio play which went on to win the Sony Gold Academy Award for Best Play UK, 2003.

The play toured the US—New York (Nuyorican Poets Café), Chicago, Minneapolis, North Carolina and Los Angeles to name a few—and several countries around the world before being adapted into a screenplay and produced as the feature film, “runt”.

Fugard's lesson of ‘walking a life’ married with specific readings of Joseph Campbell influenced Michael to forge what he now calls the Runt Method, a form of character exploration that immerses the character in timeless archetypal mythology.

Plays utilizing Runt Method include:

“Roger Guenver Smith: The Nat Turner Project” Greenway Theatre, Los Angeles
Guilt or pride in the aftermath of violence.

“Burn” Actors Forum, Los Angeles
A sex-abused survivor seeks and finds her inner demon.

“Blood” Edinburgh Fringe Festival, Scotland
Truth or shame in sex.

“Ho” Lucy Florence Theatre, Los Angeles
A woman walks the line between prostitution and power.



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RECENT WORK:

“CLASS” - 2010. - Feature thriller starring Tom Sizemore - Directed by.

“THE STAIRS” - 2010 -TV pilot featuring Bill Cobb - Directed by.

“NAT TURNER PROJECT” - 2010 Theatre Workshop with Roger Guenver Smith - Greenway Theatre (LA) - Co-written and directed by.

“BURN” - 2010 -Theatre play - Actors Forum Theatre (LA) - Co-written and directed by.

“runt” - 2010 -Three week run of play - Pierce Studio Theatre - (Pittsburgh) -Written, directed and performed by.

“I AM NOT SAM” - 2011 - Theatre workshop with Tom Sizemore at Geffen Playhouse (LA) - Written and directed by.

OPTIONED AND PRODUCED SCREENPLAYS INCLUDE:

Blood Ghost (feature trilogy) - written by.

Decomposing Tony Maslow - (feature thriller) - written by.

Island Mentality - (feature drama) - written by.

Sides - (feature comedy)- produced, written and directed by.

runt - (feature drama) - produced, written and directed by.

“Who Are the Scooby Brothers?” (feature documentary) - produced, written and directed by.

“I AM NOT SAM” -(feature adaptation of play) -written by.

Michael currently works fulltime as a professional writer script doctor and director in Los Angeles.

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